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Harriet J. Hutter.

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HARRIET J. HUTTER.

JANUARY 21, 1897.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. BLACK, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 9881.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 9881) entitled "A bill to increase the pension of Harriet J. Hutter," beg leave to submit the following report, and recommend that said bill do pass, without amendment:

Mrs. Harriet James Hutter, the widow of Maj. George Christian Hutter, formerly major and paymaster in the United States Army, was born in Botetourt County, Va., in November, 1805, and is now in her ninety-second year. She was the youngest child of Maj. James Beverly Risque, who served with distinction through the war of 1812 as major of a Virginia battalion of troops, serving under Gen. Andrew Jackson, in Louisiana, to the close of the war of 1812. Harriet J. Hutter was married to this Capt. George C. Hutter, Sixth United States Infantry, at the home of her uncle, Governor Clark, at St. Louis, Mo., in 1833.

George C. Hutter, a native of Bethlehem, Pa., after serving as a volunteer in the war of 1812, entering the service when only 18 years old, was appointed a second lieutenant in the United States Regular Army, in January, 1820, and on September 30, 1823, was promoted to first lieutenant of artillery by President Monroe. He was afterwards transferred to the Sixth United States Infantry, and during the first Administration of President Andrew Jackson was promoted to a captaincy in the Sixth Regiment of Infantry, in 1829. His regiment served in the West principally, and southwest for several years, at Council Bluffs during the Black Hawk war, and on Sabine River, and finally in Florida during all of the Seminole war. He served later in the Mexican war under General Scott.

At the termination of the war with Mexico he was made major and paymaster in the United States Army, which position he filled until the beginning of the civil war, in 1861, when he resigned his commission, after a service of over fifty years, and quietly retired to his country home, near Lynchburg, Va.

He refused a commission of colonel in the Confederate States Army, he being the only officer of the United States Army who resigned and refused a commission of equal or higher rank in the Southern Army.

His home, near Lynchburg, Va., was the headquarters of General Hunter's army during the attack on Lynchburg in 1864. He died at his home in 1880. His wife, Harriet J. Hutter, survives, and is now drawing a pension of \$12 per month. In the fall of 1895 she was partially

paralyzed, is almost blind, and deaf, and requires constant medical attention and the services of a nurse to assist her about the house. She is entirely dependent upon her pension of \$12 per month for support, together with such assistance as her two sons, both over 50 years old and each with large families, can spare to maintain and comfort her.

Before the stroke of paralysis her health had been good, but since then, at her advanced age, to which blindness has been added, she finds it impossible to spare the means necessary to secure a competent woman nurse to attend her, and therefore asks for a reasonable increase of her pension, which in all human probability will not be a tax upon the Government for more than a few years, or maybe for a few months.

The soldier's service is fully shown by the records, and all the facts relative to the claimant's physical and financial condition are vouched for by the gentleman who introduced the bill in the House, he having full personal knowledge in the premises.